

ABSTRACT

[0049] Water Craft or amphibious vehicle, includes a hull fitted with at least one elongate longitudinal keel; which may be extruded from natural or synthetic rubber. The keel has base, and at least two dependent keel members, which in steady state conditions slant downwards to port and starboard. If the keel is grounded, keel members deform elastically upwards against the base, absorbing shock. Keel members can be pushed down by water pressure, acting as dependent keels. This may occur when cornering, or when planing. Stops act against stops on base, so that when keel member is pushed downwards by water pressure, it cannot be forced beyond vertically dependent position. Alternatively, discrete keels may be provided on either side of the hull.